



BMFA South West Area

Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom 10th April 2024.

Provisional Minutes.

1. Welcome.

The meeting opened at 7:35pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Exeter and District RC Club
RC Cornwall Flyers
Dartmoor Slope Soaring Club

3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.

Plymouth Model Flying Club	Delegate
Newton Abbott Heli Club	Delegate
Riviera Thermal Soaring Club	Delegate
East Devon Radio Control Club	Delegate
Plasterdown Flying Association	Delegate
Davidstow Model Flying Club	Delegate
Okehampton MFC	Delegate
Truro MFC/Treasurer	Delegate
RNAS Culdrose/Area Delegate	Delegate
St Austell & Dist Modelling Club	Area PRO
East Devon Radio Control Club	Chairman
Okehampton MFC/Event Co-Ordinator	Secretary

4. Minutes from previous meeting.

The provisional minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17th January having been circulated were taken as read. There being no further corrections, their acceptance was proposed by RNAS Culdrose delegate and seconded by Riveira Thermal Soaring Club. The 8 delegates voted for and there was 1 abstention.

5. Actions from previous meeting.

- i. Achievement Scheme Weekend; Blackdown RC Flying Club have indicated they are prepared to host the event. The Event Co-ordinator and Chairman will work with the club to establish whether this is feasible. The Okehampton MFC committee indicated the availability of their site for the event if the Blackdown site falls through. If Okehampton is used the Area Committee would be responsible for staffing and arranging the event. It maybe necessary to hold a meeting to finalise details of this event before the next Area meeting.

- ii. Training Events: The ACE is unable to continue organising aerobatic training events and a replacement hasn't been found. Helicopter training courses will be advertised when weather conditions stabilise. Okehampton MFC delegate has volunteered to arrange thermal gliding training courses and these will also be advertised.
- iii. ASC; has continued to co-ordinate, having stepped down in November. He now feels that he cannot continue and will advise BMFA AS Controller of this. It is likely that BMFA AS Controller will take over this function until a replacement can be found.
- iv. Financial Bids: The treasurer reported that the BMFA Treasurer had failed to advise on the success or otherwise of bids made by the SW Area as of the previous weekend. Following a succession of emails over the weekend he was advised unofficially on the 7th April that the SW Area would receive £2000 of the £2500 bid for. This included the £600 administrations expenses for the Area. He proposed that given that events were already planned and had started that the shortfall be funded out of the current funding. This was proposed by Plasterdown delegate and seconded by Truro delegate. This was voted on 9:0 in favour.
It was noted that £100 000 was currently being held in reserves by Area Committees in the UK. It was felt that by reducing the budget allocations to these Area Committees it would take a long time to rebalance the system and penalises Areas that manage their budgets responsibly.
- v. Strategic planning: The session proposed for February had not been possible due to the fact that the Chairman was indisposed for personal reasons during February and March. This will be held in the near future.

6. Reports from Area Officers.

- i. The Treasurer reported a current account balance of £2991.
- ii. The Secretary reported that he attempted to obtain Achievement Scheme results for the period 2019, 2022 and 2023 from Head Office for the purpose of evaluating how the AS is working in the Area and how the Area can focus on promoting the AS. The Scheme Controller has advised that the data for Areas is not available. This was discussed at some length. Some of the suggestions were; (a) ask BMFA to supply raw data and we will do the data search. (b) get club secretaries to extract "credentials" from the membership portal or get the BMFA to examine how they can supply the information.
The secretary was contacted by a junior school that wanted to start building model aircraft. He referred them to the education section of the BMFA. We would provide any further support needed.
- iii. PRO report; He is going to launch a Newsletter. Secretary suggested that this is covered in the strategic planning session. Events booking system has changed on the website and moved to Facebook. Secretary suggested investigating Wordpress plugins if we can install them ourselves.
- iv. Area Delegate; Reported that he is attending meetings of Council and Board on 14th and 16th May.
- v. ASC: A couple of clubs require examiners to be tested which he is hoping to do when it stops raining.

7. Progress on Training events

As reported above.

8. Reports & Matters arising from Club Delegates.

Newton Abbott Heli Club have resolved their issues with the club site with the site landlord.

East Devon Radio Control Club expressed their sincere thanks to the Blackdown club for allowing their members to use the Blackdown club facilities whilst the parking area was closed.

RC Cornwall Flyers member had advised the secretary that a group was planning to meet with National Trust officials to negotiate an extension of the permit to fly at St. Agnes. He cautioned that success wasn't guaranteed.

9. AOB.

Nil

10. Date and venue for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for 18th July. This will allow for clubs and organisations to submit bids for planned activities to the Treasurer and this meeting will scrutinise the bids prior submission to the National Treasurer.

11. Meeting Close.

The meeting closed at 9:01pm

Action List:

Achievement Scheme Weekend Planning – Secretary/Chairman

Achievement Scheme Data – Secretary/Chairman

ASC appointment – Newton Abbott Heli Club delegate/Chairman/BMFA AS Controller

Examiner Mileage Claim Form – Treasurer/Secretary/Chairman

Club/Organisation bids 2025/6 - Secretary/Treasurer